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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

29 September 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military SituationSummary

The North Koreans are attempting to disengage their forces in the Seoul area, but UN troops made only limited advances to the west and east of Seoul. South of Suwon, a concentration of enemy motorized and armored units has been reported. UN units continued to advance at will in the south and east. Advanced elements of US forces are in the area of Kwangju, 32 miles from the Korean west coast, while a spearhead of the ROK forces on the east coast has passed through the south Korean industrial city of Samchok. (According to the press, advance ROK elements have reached the 38th parallel on the east coast.) UN naval and air units continue to provide effective close support and to destroy North Korean lines of communication.

Ground

Continued northward enemy movement out of Seoul indicates an enemy desire to disengage his major elements. The US 1st Marine Division has secured the city and is rounding up enemy stragglers. The 187th Airborne Regiment advanced northward along the Kimpo peninsula after repulsing an enemy attack. To the east of Seoul, the ROK 17th Regiment repulsed another enemy attack. South of Seoul, an enemy concentration has been reported in the Suwon area held by elements of the US 7th and 1st Cavalry Divisions.

Units of UN forces advanced at will throughout most of southwestern Korea. The 24th Regiment of the US 25th Division was last reported in the vicinity of Kwangju, a major south Korean industrial city 32 miles from the west coast. The US 24th Division secured Taejon, while to the south the 38th Regiment of the US 2nd Division secured the city of Chonju.

In the ROK zones to the east, sporadic resistance was encountered by the ROK 8th Division in the mountains near Punggi.

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The ROK Capital Division captured the major south Korean electric power plant at Yongwol, while the ROK 3rd Division passed through the east coast industrial city of Samchok in their swift advance toward the 38th parallel. (Press reports state that ROK elements have reached the parallel.)

Navy

UN surface units provided gun fire support for the swiftly advancing ROK units on the east coast, while other fleet units stood off Inchon to execute fire missions on call. Carrier aircraft assisted in the reduction of enemy pockets in Seoul and harassed enemy movement in the area. Carrier pilots report that enemy tanks in the Seoul area are showing an unusual resistance to methods of attack heretofore successful. Although no clarifying statement has been received, this report may confirm other reports that the North Koreans now have the heavier Joseph Stalin model tank.

Air

UN air operations increased to 721 effective sorties with improved weather, but 71 combat sorties were termed "ineffective" due to lack of suitable enemy targets. B-29's attacked rail marshalling yards and trackage in North Korea.

II. General Situation

A French news service reports from Tokyo that on 28 September the North Korean radio requested the good offices of the United Nations to end hostilities. No confirmation of such a report from this frequently unreliable news agency has been received from official UN or US sources.

President Rhee, US Ambassador Muccio, and General MacArthur have entered Seoul, and responsibility for civil administration of the liberated city was turned over to Rhee by MacArthur in a formal ceremony.

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